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The plague mortality in Bombay city and Karachi city has not increased during September and October, but in Poona city there has been a good deal of plague, the deaths in August being 12 in number, in September 72, and in October 657.

Reports from Calcutta—Fumigation of vessels—Cholera and plague mortality—Smallpox in Madras, 1874-1904.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Eakin reports, November 10 and 15, as follows:

During the week ended November 5, 1904, bill of health was issued to the steamship *Trautenfels*, bound to Boston and New York, with a total crew of 57; to the steamship *Ecclesia*, bound to Boston and New York, with a total crew of 30, and to the steamship *Madura*, bound to New York, with a total crew of 31. The usual precautions were taken, rat guards being placed on wharf lines and holds being fumigated.

Week ended November 12, no transactions.

During the week ended November 5, 1904, there were 11 deaths from cholera and 9 deaths from plague in Calcutta.

In Bengal during the week ended October 29, 1904, there were 228 cases of plague and 191 deaths.

In India during the week ended October 22, 1904, there were 18,140 cases and 13,871 deaths from plague.

Smallpox in Madras, 1874-1904.

Some interesting data are furnished by a report of the returns of deaths from smallpox in Madras for the last thirty years. In 1874 the deaths numbered 819. During the succeeding ten years the numbers varied from 196 to as many as 4,064. The latter number of deaths from the disease occurred in 1884, and apparently resulted in Government making vaccination compulsory in the city. The compulsory order went into effect on the 1st of June, 1884. From that time the diminution in the number of deaths from smallpox has been extraordinary. In 1886 only 1 death occurred; in 1895 but 3 deaths were recorded; in 1903, 7. In only three years has the number exceeded 100, i. e., 1897, 1898, and 1901. For the rest the yearly deaths have been enumerated in tens, where before 1884 they were counted in hundreds and even thousands. This seems to me favorable testimony as to the efficiency of compulsory vaccination in populated areas.

Increased prevalence of plague.

Judging from the returns at hand, the sanguine conclusions that may have been based upon the more moderate increase in the general plague mortality since the rains seem hardly justifiable. The optimistic outlook that has been assumed is not capable of being supported by the facts in the cases of some of the stricken districts and cities. Poona furnishes a most unfortunate example in point. The returns for the past four months seem to indicate that plague is growing in virulence in both the city and the cantonment. In Poona city during September there were 492 deaths; in October, 829. The corresponding figures for last year, when the disease was very severe, were 376 and 728. The epidemic of 1903 continued well into present year, when it suddenly ceased, May and June being altogether free. The